Volkswagen Cabriolet DIY Guide
Replacing Manual Convertible Top/Roof Struts

Is your Cabriolet's roof difficult to put down and/or up? Chances are, the struts have gone bad and need replacing (best to do it before they seize completely, resulting in a bent roof frame). Replacement is actually quite easy.

Tools needed:

- Small needle-nosed pliers, or just your fingers, whichever is easier for the circlips

Parts needed (a pair of the following):

- Stabilus/Lift-O-Mat replacement part number: SG401018 (available at most local auto parts stores), **or**
- At mcmastercarr.com, replacement part number: 9416K337 (you will also need four eyelets, P/N 9416K84)

Step 1

Unlatch the roof and raise it to the half-way point (if the struts have seized, leave the roof closed; do not force your roof open!). See page 2 for installed strut assembly photo.

Warning

Do **NOT remove both struts; replace the struts **one** at a time!!!!**

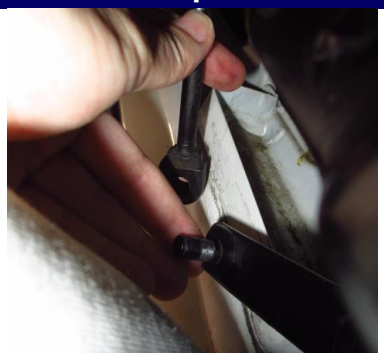
Step 2

Reach in behind the headliner of **one side:** A) Pull out the lower circlip (yellow arrow) and pull off the lower washer; set them aside in a safe place nearby. B) Pull out the upper circlip and pull off the upper washer (red arrow); set them aside in a safe place nearby.

Step 3

Pull the strut's upper-end off of its mounting post.

Step 4

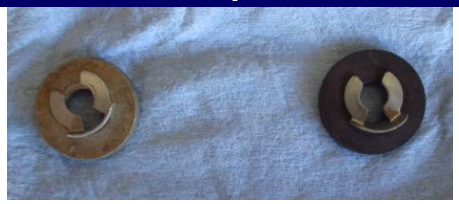


Pull the strut's lower-end off of its mounting post. Note: This post is mounted on a moveable arm.

Step 5

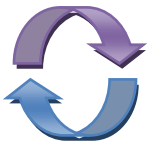
Remove the upper and lower rubber caps and place them onto each end of the new strut.

Step 6



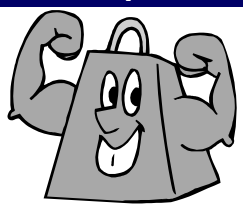
Install new strut (installation is reverse of removal), piston-end attaching to the bottom post (the one on the moveable arm). You may need push in on the washers in order to reinstall the circlips.

Step 7



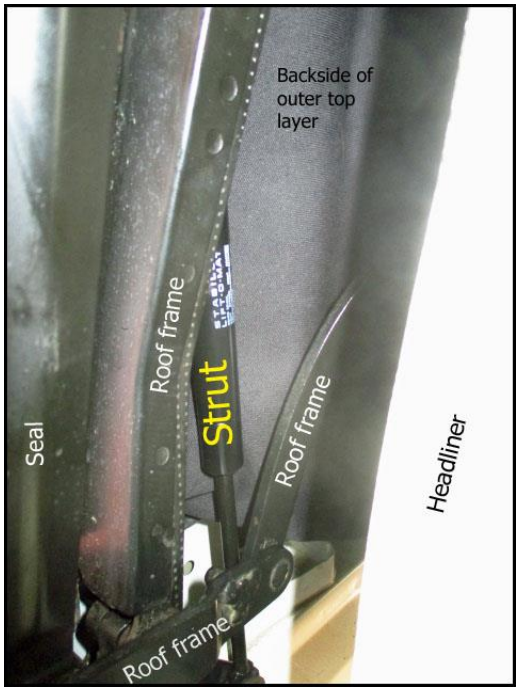
Repeat steps 2-6 on the other side of the convertible top.

Step 8



Your roof should now be much easier to put down and back up.

Installed Strut Assembly (manually-operated tops only)



(passenger side shown)

OEM Part Numbers for the Strut Assembly (manually-operated tops only)

Gas-filled Strut	Rubber Cap	Washer	Circlip
Volkswagen: 155871997A Stabilus Lift-O-Mat: SG401018 (Two required per car) *Stabilus is the manufacturer of the OEM Lift-O-Mat struts.*	Volkswagen: 171827625 (Four required per car) *Also called a "compensating piece".*	Volkswagen: N0154013 Size: 8.4x21x4mm (Four required per car) *Despite the different finishes, both washers are the same size.*	Volkswagen: ~~N90095603~~ N0123225 (Four required per car) *Also called a "lock washer".*

* * Remember, **you** are responsible for working on **your** car. Cabby-Info.com, VAG, VWoA, or anyone else are not responsible if **anything** goes wrong while **you** are working on, in and under **your** car!
Use this information at your own risk!* *